

# ARC NEWSLETTER

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

APRIL 2008

### EARTH DAY 2008 • APRIL 22



The 2008 Earth Day poster  
created for the U.S. Department of State by Cheryl Griesbach.

NEW EJOURNAL USA:



VISIT [HTTP://SCIENCE.AMERICA.GOV/SCIENCE/ENVIRON/INDEX.HTML](http://science.america.gov/science/envIRON/index.html)

- 1 -

U.S. EMBASSY - AMERICAN REFERENCE CENTER – BRATISLAVA , SLOVAKIA  
Tel: 02/59223272 Fax: 02/54418862 E-mail: [arc\\_brat@state.gov](mailto:arc_brat@state.gov) <http://slovakia.usembassy.gov>



## **GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS ..... 7**

NUCLEAR MATERIAL: DOE HAS SEVERAL POTENTIAL OPTIONS FOR DEALING WITH DEPLETED URANIUM TAILS. Government Accountability Office, GAO-08-606R. Web posted March 31, 2008. 08AD588 ... 7

EVERYONE'S BUSINESS: WORKING TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND COLLABORATION. National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology. Web posted March 30, 2008. 08AD583 ..... 7

LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT: APPROACHES USED BY FOREIGN COUNTRIES MAY PROVIDE USEFUL LESSONS FOR MANAGING U.S. RADIOACTIVE WASTE. U.S. General Accountability Office. Web posted March 22, 2007. 07AD463 ..... 7

STATE'S BRYZA BRIEFS ON ENERGY SECURITY IN EURASIAN REGION, MARCH 26, 2008 (Discusses Trans-Caspian, Balkan energy security in video conference in Athens). U.S. Department of State Trans-Caspian and Balkan Energy Security. Matthew J. Bryza, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs. On-the-Record Briefing with Greek Media Via Digital Video Conference to Athens, Greece. March 18, 2008 ..... 8

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. Government Accountability Office, GAO-08-262, Report to Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Web posted March 14, 2008. 08AD553 ..... 8

IMPORTS FROM LATIN AMERICA MAY HELP U.S. MEET ENERGY GOALS. Oak Ridge National Laboratory, report on biofuel capabilities. March 4, 2008. 08AD509 ..... 9

HYDROGEN FUEL INITIATIVE. Government Accountability Office (GAO) report 08-305. Web posted February 11, 2008 08AD450 ..... 9

## **THE WHITE HOUSE ..... 9**

THE UNITED STATES IS REDUCING DEPENDENCE ON OIL BY DIVERSIFYING ENERGY SUPPLY, INCREASING ENERGY EFFICIENCY. Fact Sheet: Increasing Our Energy Security and Confronting Climate Change through Investment in Renewable Technologies. White House News. March 5, 2008 ..... 9

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY CONFERENCE 2008. Washington Convention Center. Office of the Press Secretary. March 5, 2008 ..... 9

## **WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY CONFERENCE ..... 10**

WIREC 2008: THE POWER OF INDEPENDENCE. March 3-6, 2008 ..... 10

## **THINK TANKS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ..... 10**

### **AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE ..... 10**

CLIMATE CHANGE: A CHALLENGE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH. By Roger Bate, Paul Reiter. Testimony. Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. April 10, 2008 ..... 10

THIRST AID. By Nick Schulz. AEI. *The American*, March/April 2008 Issue ..... 10

CLEARING THE AIR: THE UNITED STATES HAS ACHIEVED STRIKING IMPROVEMENTS IN AIR QUALITY DURING THE LAST FEW DECADES. American Enterprise Institute, Short Publications. Joel Schwartz. March 19, 2008. 08AD547 ..... 11

HOW NOT TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE. By Kenneth P. Green. AEI. Published in the TCS Daily. January 31, 2008 ..... 11

<b>BROOKINGS INSTITUTION .....</b>	<b>12</b>
CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY BUILT ON SHAKY FOUNDATION. Warwick J. McKibbin, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Economic Studies, Global Economy and Development. Brookings Institution. Published in <i>The Australian Financial Review</i> , March 28, 2008 .....	12
CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE G8 HOKKAIDO TOYAKO SUMMIT. Transcript. The Brookings Institution. Washington, D.C. Monday, March 3, 2008 .....	12
<b>CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE .....</b>	<b>13</b>
DON'T PANIC ABOUT SPACE WEAPONS. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Wall Street Journal. Ashley J. Tellis. February 22, 2008; Web posted March 10, 2008. 08AD 518.....	13
<b>CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW.....</b>	<b>13</b>
INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT OF LEAD AND CADMIUM VIA TRADE: AN INTERNATIONAL CONCERN? THOUGHT STARTER. Prepared by: The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) in consultation with the FSC Working Group and on behalf of the Government of Germany, lead sponsor. IFCS/FORUM-VI/03.TS. 25 March 2008 .....	13
<b>COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION .....</b>	<b>14</b>
GREEN BUILDING IN NORTH AMERICA; Opportunities and Challenges. Article 13 Secretariat Report. CEC March 2008 .....	14
<b>CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES.....</b>	<b>14</b>
ENERGY AND NATIONAL SECURITY. Center for Strategic and International Studies. Web posted April 1, 2008. 08AD592.....	14
MANAGING THE TRANSITION TO A SECURE, LOW-CARBON ENERGY FUTURE. Sarah Ladislaw, Kathryn Zyla, and Britt Childs. CSIS/World Resources Institute. February 4, 2008.....	14
<b>EUROPEAN COMMISSION .....</b>	<b>15</b>
ATTITUDES OF EUROPEAN CITIZENS TOWARDS THE ENVIRONMENT. European Commission. Report. Special Eurobarometer 295/ Wave 68.2 – TNS Opinion & Social. March 2008 .....	15
SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION. EC. Science for Environment Policy. Issue Two. March 2008 .....	15
BIOFUELS. EC. <i>Science for Environment Policy</i> . Issue One. EC. February 2008 .....	16
<b>GREENPEACE.....</b>	<b>16</b>
TURNING UP THE HEAT: GLOBAL WARMING AND THE DEGRADATION OF CANADA'S BOREAL FOREST. Christy Ferguson - Greenpeace Canada, Elizabeth A. Nelson, University of Toronto, Geoff G. Sherman - University of Toronto. Report. Greenpeace. April 10, 2008.....	16
<b>HERITAGE FOUNDATION.....</b>	<b>16</b>
TIME FOR SECOND THOUGHTS ON THE ETHANOL MANDATE. By Ben Lieberman. Heritage Foundation. WebMemo #1879. April 2, 2008 .....	16
NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008: MODERNIZING SPENT FUEL MANAGEMENT IN THE U.S. By Jack Spencer. Heritage Foundation. Backgrounder #2113. March 6, 2008.....	17
EPA SHOULD AVOID REGULATING CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS. By Ben Lieberman. Heritage Foundation. WebMemo #1822. February 21, 2008 .....	17

THE EU'S CLIMATE CHANGE PACKAGE: NOT A MODEL TO BE COPIED. By Sally McNamara and Ben Lieberman. WebMemo #1800. February 6, 2008 .....	17
<b>NASA.....</b>	<b>18</b>
RESEARCHERS SAY ARCTIC SEA ICE STILL AT RISK DESPITE COLD WINTER. NASA 03.18.08 .....	18
<b>NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION.....</b>	<b>18</b>
GREENER FUELS, GREENER VEHICLES: A STATE RESOURCE GUIDE. National Governors Association; Securing a Clean Energy Future Task Force. Web posted March 26, 2008. 08AD571 .....	18
<b>NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION .....</b>	<b>19</b>
PREDICTING SEASONAL WEATHER: A SPECIAL REPORT. NSC, February 2008 .....	19
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL.....</b>	<b>19</b>
ONEARTH MAGAZINE Spring 2008.....	19
<b>ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT'S .....</b>	<b>19</b>
ASK THE ECONOMISTS: ENVIRONMENT - WHAT PRICE A CLEAN PLANET? OECD 19-Mar-2008 to 27-Mar-2008.....	19
<b>PEW CENTER ON GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE .....</b>	<b>20</b>
BACKGROUND NOTE ON SECTORAL APPROACHES FOR A POST-2012 INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE FRAMEWORK. Pew Center on Global Climate Change. March 2008 .....	20
COMPETITIVENESS AND ENGAGING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: RESPONSE TO HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE WHITE PAPER. Response of the Pew Center on Global Climate Change to the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Climate Change Legislation Design White Paper: Competitiveness Concerns/Engaging Developing Countries. March 2008 .....	20
STATE OPTIONS FOR LOW-CARBON COAL POLICY. By Richard Cowart and Shanna Vale, Regulatory Assistance Project; Joshua Bushinsky and Pat Hogan, Pew Center on Global Climate Change. Coal Initiative Series White Paper: Prepared for the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. February 2008.....	21
<b>RAND.....</b>	<b>22</b>
PRESENTING UNCERTAINTY ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE TO WATER-RESOURCE MANAGERS. A Summary of Workshops with the Inland Empire Utilities Agency. By: David G. Groves, Debra Knopman, Robert J. Lempert, Sandra H. Berry, Lynne Wainfan. Technical Report. RAND. January 2008 .....	22
<b>RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE .....</b>	<b>22</b>
ENDANGERED SPECIES: PROGRESS AND PITFALLS DURING THREE DECADES OF CONTROVERSY. [Resources for the Future]. Michael Bean, et. al. April 9, 2008. 08AD607 .....	22
<b>UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS .....</b>	<b>23</b>
ACHOO! GLOBAL WARMING INTENSIFIES ALLERGY SEASON, POLLUTES AIR. Union of Concerned Scientists, April 9, 2008.....	23
A NEW VISION FOR CALIFORNIA'S ZERO EMISSION VEHICLES PROGRAM: An analysis of the impact of the Zero Emission Vehicle Program on California's long term global warming pollution goals. Report. Union of Concerned Scientists, March 2008.....	23
<b>UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP).....</b>	<b>23</b>
The UNEP YEAR BOOK 2008. UNEP, February 2008 .....	23
PLANT FOR THE PLANET: THE BILLION TREE CAMPAIGN. UNEP 2008 .....	24

OUR PLANET: MAINTAINING MOMENTUM - FINANCING ACTION ON CLIMATE. UNEP. February 2008..24

**U.S. CLIMATE ACTION PARTNERSHIP (USCAP) .....25**  
COST CONTAINMENT DISCUSSION PAPER. USCAP. March 20, 2008 ..... 25

**WORLD BANK.....25**  
GLOBAL MONITORING REPORT 2008: MDGs and the Environment. World Bank-IMF April 8, 2008 ..... 25

DESIGN MEETING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE INVESTMENT FUNDS TO TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON  
APRIL 14/15..... 25

**WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.....26**  
SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT OF WOOD AND PAPER-BASED PRODUCTS: Guide and resource kit. World  
Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the World Resources Institute (WRI) 3 April, 2008 ..26

THE CORPORATE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES REVIEW - GUIDELINES FOR IDENTIFYING BUSINESS RISKS  
AND OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM ECOSYSTEM CHANGE. Craig Hanson, Janet Ranganathan, Charles  
Iceland, John Finisdore. World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the Meridian Institute and  
the World Resources Institute (WRI) March 2008 ..... 26

WBCSD ANNUAL REVIEW 2007 – THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’. World Business Council for  
Sustainable Development (WBCSD), February 2008..... 27

**WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) .....27**  
CLIMATE CHANGE WILL ERODE FOUNDATIONS OF HEALTH. WHO Director-General warns vulnerable  
populations at greatest risk of projected impacts. 7 APRIL 2008 ..... 27

**THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION (IUCN) .....28**  
BUILDING BIODIVERSITY BUSINESS. Joshua Bishop, Sachin Kapila, et.al. IUCN. 27 Mar 2008 ..... 28

IDENTIFICATION AND GAP ANALYSIS OF KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS: TARGETS FOR  
COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTED AREA SYSTEMS. Penny F. Langhammer, et al. IUCN. March 2008..... 28

**WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE .....29**  
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: A GUIDE FOR DECISION MAKERS. Janet Ranganathan, Karen Bennett, et.al. WRI.  
March 2008 ..... 29

**WORLD WILDLIFE FUND.....29**

## **ARTICLES FROM U.S. JOURNALS .....29**

SOLAR AND WIND RESOURCES CAN FUEL THE FUTURE, APRIL 10, 2008 (Energy specialist Sandalow sees  
renewable energy as an “essential solution”) By Lea Terhune, Staff Writer. U.S. Department of State, 10 April 2008  
..... 29

GOVERNMENTS, LOCAL GROUPS PLEDGE TO CUT CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS; Renewable energy  
conference stimulates “green” practices and looks to future. By Lea Terhune, Staff Writer. U.S. Department of State,  
07 March 2008 ..... 30

RARE BREED. Gugliotta, Guy. *Smithsonian*, vol. 38, no. 12, March 2008, pp. 38-47 AA08069 ..... 30

A CHANGING CLIMATE: THE ROAD AHEAD FOR THE UNITED STATES. Stern, Todd; Antholis, William.  
*Washington Quarterly* vol. 31, no. 1, Winter 2007-2008, pp. 175-187 AA08056..... 31



## GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

### **NUCLEAR MATERIAL: DOE HAS SEVERAL POTENTIAL OPTIONS FOR DEALING WITH DEPLETED URANIUM TAILS. Government Accountability Office, GAO-08-606R. Web posted March 31, 2008.**

Since 1993, uranium enrichment activities at DOE-owned uranium enrichment plants have been performed by the U.S. Enrichment Corporation (USEC), formerly a wholly owned government corporation that was privatized in 1998. However, DOE still maintains approximately 700,000 metric tons of depleted uranium tails in about 63,000 metal cylinders in storage yards at its Paducah, Kentucky, and Portsmouth, Ohio, enrichment plants. It must safely maintain these cylinders because the tails are dangerous to human health and the environment.

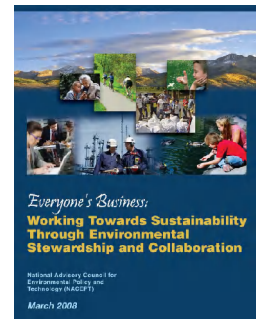
<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08606r.pdf> [pdf format, 20 pages]

### **EVERYONE'S BUSINESS: WORKING TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND COLLABORATION. National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology. Web posted March 30, 2008.**

In May, 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency asked NACEPT for its views on how EPA might advance its efforts on environmental stewardship and cooperative conservation. This report advances five recommendations, supported by specific findings and immediate steps that should be taken by EPA. In brief, NACEPT recommends that EPA should reframe its mission with stewardship as the unifying theme and strive to become the world's premier stewardship model and catalyst.

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

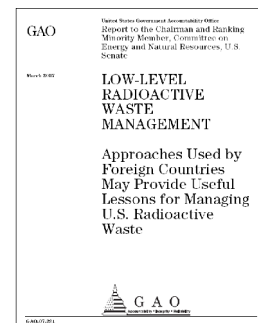
<http://epa.gov/ocem/nacept/reports/pdf/2008-0328-everyones-business-final.pdf> [pdf format, 68 pages]



### **LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT: APPROACHES USED BY FOREIGN COUNTRIES MAY PROVIDE USEFUL LESSONS FOR MANAGING U.S. RADIOACTIVE WASTE. U.S. General Accountability Office. Web posted March 22, 2007.**

The General Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to examine how other countries manage their low-level radioactive waste (LLRW). GAO surveyed 18 countries and found that:

- Most have a national radioactive waste inventory database that includes information on waste generators, waste types, storage locations, and disused sealed radiological sources;
- Most countries facilitate the timely removal of higher-activity LLRW;
- Most countries have disposal options for LLRW, central storage options, and alternative disposal options; and



- Half the countries impose financial assurance requirements to cover disposition costs.

GAO recommends that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Department of Energy (DOE) evaluate and report on adopting these management approaches and develop a U.S. radioactive waste management plan including costs, steps and authorities.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07221.pdf> [pdf format, 110 pages]

***STATE'S BRYZA BRIEFS ON ENERGY SECURITY IN EURASIAN REGION, MARCH 26, 2008 (Discusses Trans-Caspian, Balkan energy security in video conference in Athens). U.S. Department of State Trans-Caspian and Balkan Energy Security. Matthew J. Bryza, Deputy Assistant Secretary for European and Eurasian Affairs. On-the-Record Briefing with Greek Media Via Digital Video Conference to Athens, Greece. March 18, 2008***

(...) despite all of the claims a decade ago that the US government was pursuing Baku-Ceyhan for purely political reasons -- we heard that all the time -- I now understand that the upstream investment in Azerbaijan which gets to European markets and global markets in Baku-Ceyhan is the absolutely highest performing energy project for one of the major investors in that whole set of energy relationships in Azerbaijan and through the Southern corridor. So, Baku-Ceyhan has proven to be a commercial winner and a strategic winner that has helped change Europe's strategic map for the better, and that's what we want to do now with this next generation of pipelines, first and foremost the Turkey-Greece-Italy pipeline, as well the Nabucco pipeline.

These projects make commercial sense. They are going to be real because they are most competitive way to move Caspian gas and Iraqi gas into Europe. People sometimes accuse us of playing politics, we are saying just the opposite, focus only on the raw economics and you will see that gas will be moving across the Caspian and across Azerbaijan, and Georgia and Turkey, and into Greece, and outward to Italy, and up to Austria because our vision builds on over a decade of following what is the most commercially logical thing to do. And the beauty is that the commercial logic, the free market approach, which is a fundamental value and cornerstone of the NATO alliance, will now come back and serve the NATO alliance, by helping allies like Greece to put themselves in the strongest possible commercial and therefore geo-economic strategic positions.

[http://italy.usembassy.gov/viewer/article.asp?article=/file2008\\_03/alia/a8032602.htm](http://italy.usembassy.gov/viewer/article.asp?article=/file2008_03/alia/a8032602.htm)

***NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. Government Accountability Office, GAO-08-262, Report to Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Web posted March 14, 2008. 08AD553***

Several benefits can result from using collaborative resource management, including reduced conflict and litigation and improved natural resource conditions. This report outlines and evaluates current efforts.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08262.pdf> [pdf format, 139 pages]



**IMPORTS FROM LATIN AMERICA MAY HELP U.S. MEET ENERGY GOALS. Oak Ridge National Laboratory, report on biofuel capabilities. March 4, 2008. 08AD509**

The primary purpose of this study was to create analytically useful 'supply curves' for selected countries – most, but not all, in Latin America - and feedstocks. Such supply curves permit more detailed analysis of feedstock variables when modeling future global biofuel markets.

<http://www.osti.gov/bridge/servlets/purl/924080-y8ATDg/924080.PDF> [pdf format, 243 pages].

**HYDROGEN FUEL INITIATIVE. Government Accountability Office (GAO) report 08-305. Web posted February 11, 2008 08AD450**

In order to lessen America's dependence on oil, the Department of Energy is to develop technologies by 2015 that will enable American industry to produce readily available hydrogen powered automobiles by 2020. This report examines the progress of that initiative.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08305.pdf> [pdf format, 48 pages].

## **THE WHITE HOUSE**

**THE UNITED STATES IS REDUCING DEPENDENCE ON OIL BY DIVERSIFYING ENERGY SUPPLY, INCREASING ENERGY EFFICIENCY. Fact Sheet: Increasing Our Energy Security and Confronting Climate Change through Investment in Renewable Technologies. White House News. March 5, 2008**

Today, President Bush spoke to the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference and discussed the importance of renewable and alternative energy technologies to increasing America's energy security and addressing the long-term challenge of global climate change. The more sources of energy we have, the less influence any one of them, such as oil, has over the United States' security and prosperity. Renewable energies are some of the most promising new sources for energy because they are clean and because their supply can be regenerated. The Washington International Renewable Energy Conference brings together government, civil society, and private sector leaders to address benefits and costs of the global deployment of renewable energy technology.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/03/20080305-2.html>

**REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY CONFERENCE 2008. Washington Convention Center. Office of the Press Secretary. March 5, 2008**

“The dependency upon oil also puts us at the mercy of terrorists. If there's tight supply and demand, all it requires is one terrorist disruption of oil and that price goes even higher. It's in our interests to end our dependency on oil because it -- that dependency presents a challenge to our national security. In 1985, 20 percent of America's oil came from abroad. Today that number is nearly 60 percent.

Now, all the countries we import from are friendly, stable countries; but some countries we get oil from don't particularly like us. They don't like the form of government that we embrace. They don't believe in the same freedoms we believe in, and that's a problem from a national security perspective, for the United States and any other nation that values its economic sovereignty and national sovereignty.”

<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2008/March/20080306162824xjsnommis0.4367945.html>

## **WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY CONFERENCE**

### ***WIREC 2008: THE POWER OF INDEPENDENCE. March 3-6, 2008***

For four days beginning March 3, leaders from international governments, businesses and nongovernmental organizations will convene for the 2008 Washington International Renewable Energy Conference (WIREC) hosted by the United States government in cooperation with the American Council on Renewable Energy. At least 16 countries from Africa, Asia, the European Union, Latin America and North America will discuss, as Under Secretary of State Paula Dobriansky phrased it, “how renewable energy advances our shared goals for increasing sustainable development and energy security while addressing the global challenge of climate change.”

<http://www.wirec2008.gov/wps/portal/wirec2008>

## **THINK TANKS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### **AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE**

#### ***CLIMATE CHANGE: A CHALLENGE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH. By Roger Bate, Paul Reiter. Testimony. Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. April 10, 2008***

The ecology and natural history of disease transmission involves the interplay of a multitude of interacting factors that defy simplistic analysis. The rapid increase in the incidence of many diseases worldwide is a major cause for concern, but the principal determinants are politics, economics, human ecology and human behaviour. A creative and organized application of resources to reverse this increase is urgently required, irrespective of any changes of climate.

[http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.27793,filter.all/pub\\_detail.asp](http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.27793,filter.all/pub_detail.asp)

#### ***THIRST AID. By Nick Schulz. AEI. The American, March/April 2008 Issue***

Three entrepreneurs are hoping to combat the world's worst environmental and humanitarian crisis.

Of the myriad problems Hurricane Katrina victims faced, among the most tragic was a lack of drinking water. It would have been comical if it hadn't been so sad. After all, people were surrounded by a rising tide of H<sub>2</sub>O and yet unable to slake their thirst. The problem was, despite this grotesque overabundance of water, it was all polluted, so none of it was potable.

For a country that has clean drinking water flowing out of every household tap, the sight of Americans thirsty to the point of distress is a rare one indeed. But for hundreds of millions of people around the world, lack of reliable drinking water is the norm. It's an enormous environmental and humanitarian problem, killing as many as two million people a year. Disasters can trigger an entrepreneurial response, however. And a handful of technologists have been developing products to get safe drinking water to those in need. With names such as LifeSaver, LifeStraw, and LifePack, you get a sense of their aims.

<http://www.american.com/archive/2008/march-april-magazine-contents/thirst-aid>

***CLEARING THE AIR: THE UNITED STATES HAS ACHIEVED STRIKING IMPROVEMENTS IN AIR QUALITY DURING THE LAST FEW DECADES. American Enterprise Institute, Short Publications. Joel Schwartz. March 19, 2008. 08AD547***

The United States drastically improved its air quality between 1980 and 2006. Among the improvements are a 66% reduction in sulfur dioxide, a 75% reduction in carbon monoxide, and a 96% reduction in airborne lead. These improvements are even more extraordinary considering that they occurred at the same time that power plants increased coal consumption more than 60 percent and the amount of driving nearly doubled. Technology--in the form of cleaner cars, cleaner power plants, cleaner paints, cleaner everything--has won the battle for clean air, even with burgeoning economic activity.

[Note: Contains copyrighted material].

[http://www.aei.org/publications/filter.all,pubID.27674/pub\\_detail.asp](http://www.aei.org/publications/filter.all,pubID.27674/pub_detail.asp) [direct link with pdf format embedded].

***HOW NOT TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE. By Kenneth P. Green. AEI. Published in the TCS Daily. January 31, 2008***

Common sense should tell us that good policies produce more in benefits than they cost us. Unfortunately, common sense has left the building when it comes to climate policy. Asserting (somewhat absurdly) that America's economic and geopolitical competitors, such as China and India, are just waiting for "U.S. moral leadership," several voices are renewing their call for domestic cap-and-trade legislation to control greenhouse gases.

But cap-and-trade schemes are fundamentally flawed, and particularly ill-suited to greenhouse gas control. The current poster child for cap and trade is the Warner-Lieberman Climate Security Act of 2007 (S. 2191). If enacted, Warner-Lieberman will cause economic harm without producing any environmental or climate-protective benefits. This is the hallmark of irrational policy.

[http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.27435,filter.all/pub\\_detail.asp](http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.27435,filter.all/pub_detail.asp)

## **BROOKINGS INSTITUTION**

### ***CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY BUILT ON SHAKY FOUNDATION. Warwick J. McKibbin, Nonresident Senior Fellow, Economic Studies, Global Economy and Development. Brookings Institution. Published in The Australian Financial Review, March 28, 2008***

The Garnaut draft report on a national emissions trading scheme is a good summary of a debate that has been under way in Australia for more than a decade. Unfortunately it is not clear that the review's proposed approach is what the country needs to tackle climate change.

Its basic premises are a matter of considerable debate. The Garnaut review starts from the same basic assumptions as the Stern review: that the science of climate change is almost completely resolved, and that there should be a global binding carbon target or - in the case of the Garnaut review - a global carbon budget that should be imposed on Australia. Given this target, the role of economics is to deliver this target at low cost.

If the premise on scientific certainty is correct, then the approach of the Garnaut review is reasonable. However, most experts in the climate change area acknowledge the science is still uncertain on what the precise target for greenhouse emissions should be. The Garnaut review also acknowledges this, but critically fails to adequately incorporate it into designing the policy response.

[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2008/0328\\_climate\\_change\\_mckibbin.aspx?p=1](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2008/0328_climate_change_mckibbin.aspx?p=1)

### ***CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE G8 HOKKAIDO TOYAKO SUMMIT. Transcript. The Brookings Institution. Washington, D.C. Monday, March 3, 2008***

As the international community continues to seek a sensible and a workable multilateral architecture for addressing climate change, the Japanese government has declared climate change a top priority as it prepares to host the G8 Summit in Hokkaido in July.

On March 3, the Brookings Institution hosted the top Japanese and U.S. climate change advisors for a discussion on their governments' respective policy initiatives. The speakers explored options for a new international framework on climate change and discuss the role of the Hokkaido Summit as a critical milestone in ongoing climate policy negotiations. Speakers included Mutsuyoshi Nishimura, special advisor to the Japanese Cabinet on Climate Change; James Connaughton, chairman, White House Council on Environmental Quality; and Warwick McKibbin, nonresident senior fellow, The Brookings Institution.

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/events/2008/0303\\_climate/20080303\\_climate.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/events/2008/0303_climate/20080303_climate.pdf)

## CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE

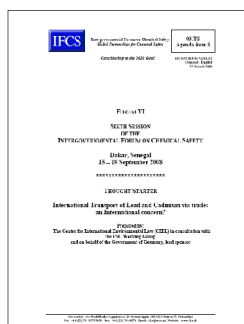
***DON'T PANIC ABOUT SPACE WEAPONS. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; Wall Street Journal. Ashley J. Tellis. February 22, 2008; Web posted March 10, 2008. 08AD 518***

When the U.S. launched a missile to destroy a dead satellite that would have otherwise re-entered the atmosphere and possibly threatened populated areas with a toxic load of hydrazine fuel, it resurrected fears about the so-called weaponization of space. Carnegie Associate Ashley J. Tellis comments in the Wall Street Journal on the ongoing “space weapon” debate and praises the Bush administration for rejecting a joint Russian-Chinese arms treaty aimed at banning such weapons. [Note: Contains copyrighted material.]

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120363882675884461.html?mod=opinion\\_main\\_commentaries](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120363882675884461.html?mod=opinion_main_commentaries) [direct link to Wall Street Journal].

## CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

***INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT OF LEAD AND CADMIUM VIA TRADE: AN INTERNATIONAL CONCERN? THOUGHT STARTER. Prepared by: The Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) in consultation with the FSC Working Group and on behalf of the Government of Germany, lead sponsor. IFCS/FORUM-VI/03.TS. 25 March 2008***



At the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety (IFCS) held in Budapest 25-29 September 2006, Forum V adopted a statement on mercury, lead, and cadmium urging IFCS participants and the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM) to “consider actions at the local, national, regional and global levels for mercury, lead and cadmium, as appropriate, with particular emphasis on the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition.”

The statement followed the commitment by States at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to “Promote reduction of the risks posed by heavy metals that are harmful to human health and the environment, including through a review of relevant studies, such as the United Nations Environment Programme global assessment of mercury and its compounds”; and the UNEP Governing Council’s decision urging “Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to work with the private sector to identify effective ways of reducing exposures to lead and to strengthen monitoring and surveillance efforts and the treatment of lead poisoning.”

This Thought Starter and the Forum VI session on lead and cadmium respond to these requests by examining whether the dispersal of lead and cadmium through international trade of these metals as commodities and in products and wastes may warrant coordinated international action to protect human health and the environment.

[http://www.ciel.org/Publications/PbCd\\_ThoughtStarter\\_Mar08.pdf](http://www.ciel.org/Publications/PbCd_ThoughtStarter_Mar08.pdf)

## COMMISSION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

### ***GREEN BUILDING IN NORTH AMERICA; Opportunities and Challenges. Article 13 Secretariat Report. CEC March 2008***



In this report, the Secretariat of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) recommends that North American leaders make green building a foundational driver for environmental, social, and economic improvement in Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

By continually improving how we locate, design, build, operate, and retrofit buildings, North American leaders can significantly improve the well-being of North America. Advanced energy-saving technologies applied in buildings can result in enormous reductions in demand for fossil fuels and emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG). Better design and building practices can also help address environmental challenges such as natural resource depletion, waste disposal, and air, water, and soil pollution. Green building can also help achieve gains in human health and prosperity.

[http://www.cec.org/files/PDF//GB\\_Report\\_EN.pdf](http://www.cec.org/files/PDF//GB_Report_EN.pdf)

## CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

### ***ENERGY AND NATIONAL SECURITY. Center for Strategic and International Studies. Web posted April 1, 2008. 08AD592***

Sustained economic growth in OECD countries coupled with rapid growth of developing economies will demand ever increasing supplies of energy. The world is not short on resources to meet these demand needs, but must balance an evolving set of challenges and opportunities to develop and bring to market energy supplies that are economical, secure, and clean. Most projections indicate continued reliance on fossil fuels to meet a significant portion of primary energy demand, a reality that becomes particularly challenging in a carbon constrained future.

<http://www.csis.org/energy/>

### ***MANAGING THE TRANSITION TO A SECURE, LOW-CARBON ENERGY FUTURE. Sarah Ladislaw, Kathryn Zyla, and Britt Childs. CSIS/World Resources Institute. February 4, 2008***

In the years to come, the world must meet the energy needs of a growing and developing world population while mitigating the impacts of global climate change. This policy brief seeks to establish a framework for considering the complex and evolving links between energy security and climate change, and identifies three challenges:

- the evolving and interconnected nature of energy security and climate change definitions and goals,
- the variables that contribute to an uncertain future, and
- the trade-offs and unintended consequences involved in addressing both





A workable strategy must be concerned not just with how to design a future in which climate change and energy security concerns are met, but also with the pathway to get there. To guide this transition, this brief offers several guiding principles for devising energy and climate policies that are both effective and politically viable.

[http://www.csis.org/media/isis/pubs/080204\\_managing\\_the\\_transition.pdf](http://www.csis.org/media/isis/pubs/080204_managing_the_transition.pdf)

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

### **ATTITUDES OF EUROPEAN CITIZENS TOWARDS THE ENVIRONMENT. European Commission. Report. Special Eurobarometer 295/ Wave 68.2 – TNS Opinion & Social. March 2008**



The nature of environmental challenges has changed considerably in recent decades. Nonetheless, the global nature of environmental problems has long been known, as issues such as pollution, loss of biodiversity, global warming, ozone depletion and tropical deforestation do not respect international borders.

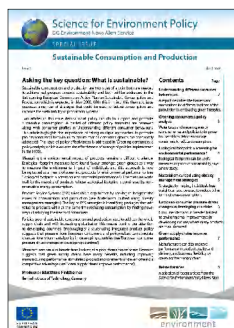
(...)

Two tendencies can be linked to this phenomenon. Firstly, there is an ever greater need for a global response to global problems. This is already underway in numerous international environmental agreements and legislation. Secondly, citizens are becoming more aware of both the potential effects of these problems in their daily lives and the role they could play in protecting their environment.

In this context, the Environment Directorate-General decided to commission a public opinion survey to measure the opinions, attitudes and behaviour of Europeans towards the environment. The survey was carried out in the 27 Member States of the European Union between the 13th November and 14th of December 2007<sup>1</sup>. Nearly 27,000 respondents were interviewed face-to-face at their homes in their national languages.

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/barometer/pdf/report2008\\_environment\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/barometer/pdf/report2008_environment_en.pdf)

### **SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION. EC. Science for Environment Policy. Issue Two. March 2008**



Sustainable consumption and production are two sides of a coin, both are needed to achieve real progress towards sustainability and both will be addressed in the forthcoming European Commission Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production which is expected in May 2008. With this in mind, this thematic issue discusses a number of strategies that could be used to reduce consumption and improve the sustainability of production systems.

Measuring the environmental impact of products remains a difficult challenge. Ecological footprint measures have found favour amongst green groups as a way to measure the environmental impact of individuals and this approach is now being tested as a means of screening products for environmental performance

(see 'Ecological footprint: a screen for environmental performance?'). The measure works well for the majority of products, whose ecological footprint is dominated by nonrenewable energy consumption.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/2si.pdf>

## **BIOFUELS. EC. Science for Environment Policy. Issue One. EC. February 2008**

Interest in biofuels is growing and proposed European Commission targets to increase the amount of biofuels used in transportation to 10 per cent is likely to drive further research and development in this field. But the move to increase biofuel production raises concerns about the impact of biofuel crops on the environment, landscape and food security.

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/1si.pdf>



## **GREENPEACE**

### **TURNING UP THE HEAT: GLOBAL WARMING AND THE DEGRADATION OF CANADA'S BOREAL FOREST. Christy Ferguson - Greenpeace Canada, Elizabeth A. Nelson, University of Toronto, Geoff G. Sherman - University of Toronto. Report. Greenpeace. April 10, 2008**



A new report released by Greenpeace on the 10th of April 2008 finds that logging in Canada's Boreal Forest is making global warming worse by releasing greenhouse gases and reducing carbon storage. It also finds that logging makes the forest more susceptible to global warming impacts like wildfires and insect outbreaks, which in turn release more greenhouse gases. Here is a selection of some pictures that can be found in the report.

<http://www.greenpeace.org/raw/content/usa/turning-up-the-heat-global-w.pdf>

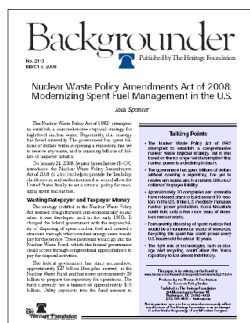
## **HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

### **TIME FOR SECOND THOUGHTS ON THE ETHANOL MANDATE. By Ben Lieberman. Heritage Foundation. WebMemo #1879. April 2, 2008**

America's energy policy has been on an ethanol binge, and now the hangover has begun. The federal renewable fuels mandate is an unfolding failure, and more Members of Congress are taking notice. If repeal of the mandate is not yet possible, Congress should at least freeze ethanol use at current levels while the nation reassesses its renewable fuels policy.

[http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/upload/wm\\_1879.pdf](http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/upload/wm_1879.pdf)

## **NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008: MODERNIZING SPENT FUEL MANAGEMENT IN THE U.S. By Jack Spencer. Heritage Foundation. Backgrounder #2113. March 6, 2008**



The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 attempted to establish a comprehensive disposal strategy for high-level nuclear waste. Regrettably, that strategy has failed miserably. The government has spent billions of dollars without opening a repository, has yet to receive any waste, and is amassing billions of dollars of taxpayer liability.

On January 24, 2008, Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) introduced the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2008 (S. 2551) to help to provide the flexibility, clarifications, and authorizations that would allow the United States finally to set a rational policy for managing spent nuclear fuel.

[http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/upload/bg\\_2113.pdf](http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/upload/bg_2113.pdf)

## **EPA SHOULD AVOID REGULATING CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS. By Ben Lieberman. Heritage Foundation. WebMemo #1822. February 21, 2008**

Critics of big government focus most of their attention on soaring federal budgets and the endless stream of new legislation that would further increase spending and taxes. Often overlooked is the trillion-dollar annual cost of compliance with federal regulations. Like the federal budget, this regulatory burden continues to increase and usually accelerates during the final year of an Administration.

The most worrisome regulation now under consideration is a declaration by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that carbon dioxide emissions from motor vehicles endanger public health. The so-called endangerment finding would spark many costly measures with the potential to harm the U.S. economy and intrude on citizens' daily activities. The EPA should refrain from initiating any regulation that would jump ahead of Congress on global warming.

<http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/wm1822.cfm>



## **THE EU'S CLIMATE CHANGE PACKAGE: NOT A MODEL TO BE COPIED. By Sally McNamara and Ben Lieberman. WebMemo #1800. February 6, 2008**

The publication of the European Union's (EU) Renewable Energy and Climate Plan Package has prompted predictable calls for the United States to agree to a similar package of binding targets and market-interfering measures.

This plan would serve as a successor to the Kyoto Protocol, which currently commits the EU to reducing 1990 emissions levels by 8 percent before 2012.

Following the failure of its flagship Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), EU emissions from relevant sectors actually rose by 0.8 percent from 2005 to 2006 and are well above the Kyoto goal. The EU has clearly not learned its lesson, as it plans to try once again to regulate itself out of disaster at a predicted cost of €60 billion.

EU elites have long used popular concern about the environment as a way to promote the undemocratic European project, absent any cost-benefit analysis or meaningful measures of success. The United States cannot afford to bow to moral posturing by the European Union. Instead, Washington should follow a truly pro-market approach that avoids mandatory targets and focuses on technological development.

[http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/upload/wm\\_1800.pdf](http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/upload/wm_1800.pdf)

## NASA

### **RESEARCHERS SAY ARCTIC SEA ICE STILL AT RISK DESPITE COLD WINTER. NASA 03.18.08**

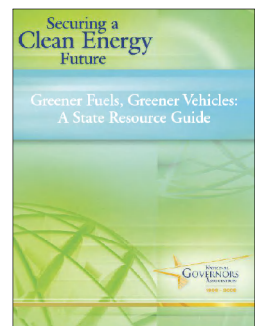
Using the latest satellite observations, NASA researchers and others report that the Arctic is still on “thin ice” when it comes to the condition of sea ice cover in the region. A colder-than-average winter in some regions of the Arctic this year has yielded an increase in the area of new sea ice, while the older sea ice that lasts for several years has continued to decline.

This ice concentration map dated March 9, 2008, indicates maximum ice extent in the Northern Hemisphere. The contour of the ice edge in 2006 is shown in red, while that for the 28-year average is shown in gold. Click image to enlarge. Credit: NASA On March 18 the scientists said they believe that the increased area of sea ice this winter is due to recent weather conditions, while the decline in perennial ice reflects the longer-term warming climate trend and is a result of increased melting during summer and greater movement of the older ice out of the Arctic.

[http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/seaice\\_conditions\\_feature.html](http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/seaice_conditions_feature.html)

## NATIONAL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

### **GREENER FUELS, GREENER VEHICLES: A STATE RESOURCE GUIDE. National Governors Association; Securing a Clean Energy Future Task Force. Web posted March 26, 2008. 08AD571**



This best practices “State Resource Guide” discusses alternative transportation fuels and vehicle technologies available in the marketplace today including ethanol, biodiesel, natural gas, electricity, and hybrid electric. It also provides a brief overview of the economic and environmental implications of an oil-dependent transportation sector and reviews alternative fuels and vehicle technologies in use today, describes innovations coming in the future, and explains their associated benefits and limitations.

[Note: Contains Copyrighted Material].

<http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/0802GREENERFUELS.PDF> [pdf format, 36 pages]  
**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

***PREDICTING SEASONAL WEATHER: A SPECIAL REPORT. NSC, February 2008***

Large-scale weather patterns which occur in various locations around the Earth, from the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) in the tropics to the high latitude Arctic Oscillation (AO) play a significant part in controlling the weather on a seasonal time scale. Knowing the condition of these atmospheric oscillations in advance would greatly improve long-range weather predictions. Scientists search for clues in the earth's surface conditions such as tropical sea surface temperatures and snow cover at higher latitudes. Reliable and accurate weather prediction is vitally important in numerous areas of society, particularly agriculture and water management and weather risks are evaluated by a wide range of businesses, including power distributors who make fewer sales during cool summers and more sales during cold winters. The portion of the U.S. economy sensitive to weather conditions is estimated to be at least \$3 trillion.  
[http://www.nsf.gov/news/special\\_reports/autumnwinter/intro.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/autumnwinter/intro.jsp)

**NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL**

***ONEARTH MAGAZINE Spring 2008***

<http://www.onearth.org/>



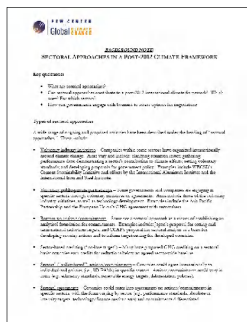
**ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT'S (OECD)**

***ASK THE ECONOMISTS: ENVIRONMENT - WHAT PRICE A CLEAN PLANET? OECD 19-Mar-2008 to 27-Mar-2008***

What needs to be done and who should pay to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and tackle climate change? Read the questions and answers from the online debate on this issue that took place on Thursday 27 March 2008.  
[http://www.oecd.org/document/62/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_201185\\_40303102\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/62/0,3343,en_2649_201185_40303102_1_1_1_1,00.html)



**BACKGROUND NOTE ON SECTORAL APPROACHES FOR A POST-2012 INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE FRAMEWORK. Pew Center on Global Climate Change. March 2008**



**\*\*This brief background paper was released on March 30, 2008 at the UNFCCC Bangkok Climate Talks\*\***

Since climate change first emerged as an international issue in the late 1980s, a recurring policy question has been whether to address it on a comprehensive or a sector-by-sector basis. In recent years, sectoral approaches have received renewed attention and are among the options proposed for the post-2012 period.

This background paper helps clarify different types of sectoral approaches under discussion and how they might fit into a post-2012 international climate framework.  
<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/Sectoral-Background.pdf>

**COMPETITIVENESS AND ENGAGING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: RESPONSE TO HOUSE ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE WHITE PAPER. Response of the Pew Center on Global Climate Change to the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Climate Change Legislation Design White Paper: Competitiveness Concerns/Engaging Developing Countries. March 2008**

The Pew Center on Global Climate Change commends the Committee for initiating this examination of options for addressing competitiveness and developing country engagement, in the context of domestic climate change legislation, and welcomes the opportunity to provide input on these critical issues. This submission offers a general perspective on these issues and responses to the questions posed by the Committee.

The issues of competitiveness and developing country engagement are closely related, and some policy approaches that might be incorporated into domestic climate change legislation could, to some degree, address both concerns simultaneously. However, it is important that these two issues be disentangled and that each be considered in its own right, both in order to understand their full characteristics and dynamics, and to identify policy options that may address one but not the other. Further, it is important to consider whether a particular policy approach that appears to hold promise in addressing one concern may complicate or undermine efforts to address the other  
<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/Pew%20Center%20on%20Competitiveness-Developing%20Countries-FINAL.pdf>.



## **CLIMATE CHANGE 101: ADAPTATION. Pew Center on Global Climate Change. February 2008.**



The Earth's climate is rapidly changing. In the United States and other nations, people are seeing how the impacts of rising global temperatures affect their communities, their livelihoods, and the natural environment. Substantially reducing greenhouse gas emissions is essential to avoiding the worst impacts of climate change. But mitigation alone is not enough. Even with emission reductions, some warming will still occur. Adaptation planning at the local, state, and national levels can limit the damage caused by climate change, as well as the long-term costs of responding to climate-related impacts that are expected to grow in number and intensity in the decades to come.

[http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/Adaptation\\_0.pdf](http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/Adaptation_0.pdf)

## **CLIMATE CHANGE 101: CAP AND TRADE. Pew Center on Global Climate Change. February 2008.**

There are a variety of policy tools to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions responsible for climate change. This installment of the Climate Change 101 series explains how a cap-and-trade program sets a clear limit on greenhouse gas emissions and minimizes the costs of achieving this target. By creating a market, and a price, for emission reductions, cap and trade offers an environmentally effective and economically efficient response to climate change.

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/Cap&Trade.pdf>



## **STATE OPTIONS FOR LOW-CARBON COAL POLICY. By Richard Cowart and Shanna Vale, Regulatory Assistance Project; Joshua Bushinsky and Pat Hogan, Pew Center on Global Climate Change. Coal Initiative Series White Paper: Prepared for the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. February 2008**



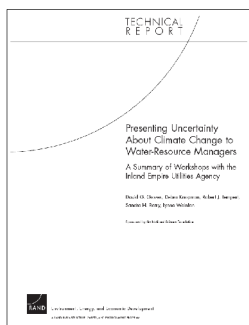
State Options for Low-Carbon Coal Policy is the third in a series of Pew Center papers that explore strategies for addressing CO2 emissions from using coal to provide electricity.

This paper provides an overview of the policy options available to states to encourage the deployment of carbon capture and sequestration technologies for coal-fueled power plants, including those policy tools available to state public utility commissions.

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/StateOptions-02-20-08.pdf>

**RAND**

**PRESENTING UNCERTAINTY ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE TO WATER-RESOURCE MANAGERS. A Summary of Workshops with the Inland Empire Utilities Agency. By: David G. Groves, Debra Knopman, Robert J. Lempert, Sandra H. Berry, Lynne Wainfan. Technical Report. RAND. January 2008**



Water-resource managers have long strived to meet their goals of system reliability and environmental protection in the face of many uncertainties, including demographic and economic forecasts, intrinsic weather variability, and short-term climate change induced by El Niño and other naturally occurring cycles. Now water managers also face a new uncertainty — the potential for longer-term and more persistent climate change, which, in coming years, may significantly affect the availability of supply and patterns of water demand. Information about the future effects of climate change is deeply uncertain and likely to remain so for the foreseeable future.

Thus, the scientific community is debating how to most usefully characterize this important yet uncertain information for decisionmakers. As part of a multiyear study on climate-change decisionmaking under uncertainty, RAND researchers are working with water agencies in California to help them better understand how climate change might affect their systems and what actions, if any, they need to take to address this challenge. This report documents the methods and observations used to preserve an archive of the workshop process and provide a basis for refining the approach for future applications.

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/2008/RAND\\_TR505.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2008/RAND_TR505.pdf)

**RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE**

**ENDANGERED SPECIES: PROGRESS AND PITFALLS DURING THREE DECADES OF CONTROVERSY. [Resources for the Future]. Michael Bean, et. al. April 9, 2008.**

The year 2008 marks the 35th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act, which was passed in 1973 and soon became one of America's most controversial laws, generating hundreds of legal challenges by government authorities, conservationists, landowners, and industry. This document is the transcript of a Resources for the Future interview with Michael Bean, a recognized authority on the Endangered Species Act. Bean examines the related policy questions.

<http://www.rff.org/rff/News/Features/loader.cfm?url=/commonspot/security/getfile.cfm&PageID=32722> [pdf format, 5 pages].



## UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS

### ***ACHOO! GLOBAL WARMING INTENSIFIES ALLERGY SEASON, POLLUTES AIR. Union of Concerned Scientists, April 9, 2008***

Attention allergy sufferers: Climate change is bad for your health. Recent scientific studies have found that rising temperatures and higher carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are lengthening the allergy season and changing how plants produce allergens. Meanwhile, other studies have determined that rising temperatures combined with vehicle pollution can trigger more ground-level ozone — a pollutant that causes respiratory problems — especially in urban areas that already suffer from poor air quality

[http://www.ucsusa.org/news/press\\_release/achoo-global-warming-intensif-0107.html](http://www.ucsusa.org/news/press_release/achoo-global-warming-intensif-0107.html)

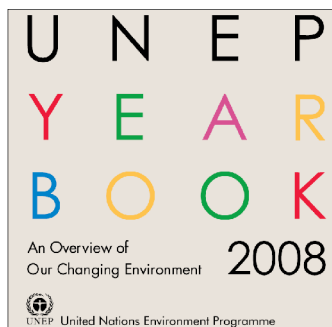
### ***A NEW VISION FOR CALIFORNIA'S ZERO EMISSION VEHICLES PROGRAM: An analysis of the impact of the Zero Emission Vehicle Program on California's long term global warming pollution goals. Report. Union of Concerned Scientists, March 2008***

Despite the importance of zero-emissions vehicles (ZEVs) in limiting climate change, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) recently voted to reduce the number of ZEVs it would require automakers to produce. Instead, CARB has mandated that automakers must produce greater numbers of plug-in hybrid vehicles. While plug-in hybrids dramatically reduce pollution and oil consumption, they do not represent a long-term substitute for ZEVs in controlling climate change.

[http://www.ucsusa.org/news/press\\_release/california-takes-step-ba-0105.html](http://www.ucsusa.org/news/press_release/california-takes-step-ba-0105.html)

## UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

### ***The UNEP YEAR BOOK 2008. UNEP, February 2008***



The UNEP Year Book 2008 (formerly the GEO Year Book) is the fifth annual report on the changing environment produced by the United Nations Environment Programme in collaboration with many world environmental experts. The UNEP Year Book 2008 highlights the increasing complexity and interconnections of climate change, ecosystem integrity, human well-being, and economic development. It examines the emergence and influence of economic mechanisms and market driven approaches for addressing environmental degradation, and it describes recent research findings and policy decisions that affect our awareness of and response to changes in our

global climate and environment. In three chapters, the UNEP Year Book 2008 brings the spotlight on new and recent events, developments and scientific findings in environment: The Global Overview surveys the significant environmental events that gained prominence during 2007. Using graphs, charts, and photos with examples from regional experiences, the overview tracks the year's developments on the environmental front. The Feature Focus documents some of the creative efforts already working in markets and financial circles to fight the growing climate crisis. The section also analyses the patterns that are emerging after at least a decade of carbon

market experimentation and attempts to map the next important steps that will witness a transition to an environmentally-sound economy. The Emerging Challenges examines new and recent scientific findings on the role of arctic climate feedbacks in climate change. Release of methane from thawing permafrost and methane hydrates in sub-sea deposits are resulting in an amplification of warming and emphasizes the urgent need for increased investments in climate and energy research, knowledge partnerships, and global political responses to ultimately reverse these trends.

[http://www.unep.org/geo/yearbook/yb2008/report/UNEP\\_YearBook2008\\_Full\\_EN.pdf](http://www.unep.org/geo/yearbook/yb2008/report/UNEP_YearBook2008_Full_EN.pdf)

### ***PLANT FOR THE PLANET: THE BILLION TREE CAMPAIGN. UNEP 2008***



This publication can introduce but a fraction of the energy and results inspired by the Campaign. It is intended to convey the range of partners moved to action: from children to giant corporations, from womens groups to technocrats, dancers to diplomats, farmers to national governments. Trees are more significant than many of us might imagine. They commemorate births and lives lived. They beautify slums, farms and grand avenues. They provide shade, oxygen, and delight. They cool the Earth.

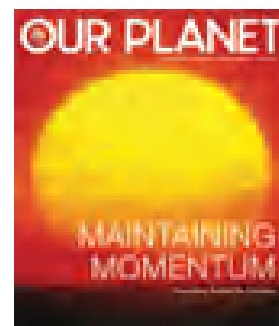
[http://www.unep.org/pdf/BTC\\_Booklet.pdf](http://www.unep.org/pdf/BTC_Booklet.pdf)

### ***OUR PLANET: MAINTAINING MOMENTUM - FINANCING ACTION ON CLIMATE. UNEP. February 2008***

If the world is successfully to navigate the Road Map agreed at the Bali climate change negotiations in December, ways need to be found to mobilize and focus the trillions of dollars in the world's financial and capital markets on the greening of the global economy.

Such greening has already begun, driven by the Kyoto Protocol, anticipation of even deeper cuts from a new climate regime after 2012 — and by the growing realization that if 21st century economies are to compete, flourish and deliver a new generation of jobs, they will need to be more resource efficient and less dependent on finite natural resources.

Now the challenge is to accelerate and mainstream these real, tangible but fledgling beginnings.



Financing a transition to a low carbon society is one of the central issues, along with climate proofing economies, before delegates at the 10th Special Session of UNEP's Governing Council in Monaco. The attending environment ministers, and their institutions, have been in the forefront of championing forward-looking economic and policy instruments, through partnerships with pioneers in the financial services sector, industry, other UN organizations, organized labour, scientists, civil society and law makers.

<http://www.unep.org/ourplanet/2008/feb/en/>

## **U.S. CLIMATE ACTION PARTNERSHIP (USCAP)**

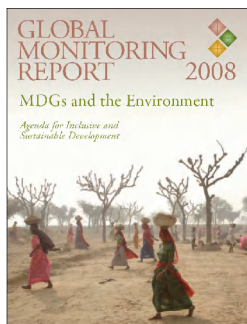
### ***COST CONTAINMENT DISCUSSION PAPER. USCAP. March 20, 2008***

Cost containment measures should be designed to address a variety of reasonable concerns about the price and cost impacts of a cap-and-trade system. The primary concerns are: 1) short-term extreme price volatility; 2) sustained excessively high allowance prices; 3) an allowance price trajectory that discourages important investments in emissions-reducing technologies; and 4) an illiquid market. In further addressing these concerns, it is important to use tools that work well together and mitigate these concerns in a manner that is consistent with the above principles.

[http://www.us-cap.org/USCAP\\_Cost\\_Containment.pdf](http://www.us-cap.org/USCAP_Cost_Containment.pdf)

## **WORLD BANK**

### ***GLOBAL MONITORING REPORT 2008: MDGs and the Environment. World Bank-IMF April 8, 2008***



The new World Bank-IMF report warns that most countries will fall short on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight globally agreed development goals with a due date of 2015.

Though much of the world is set to cut extreme poverty in half by then, prospects are gravest for the goals of reducing child and maternal mortality. Serious shortfalls also likely in primary school completion, nutrition, and sanitation goals.

The report also stresses the link between environment and development and calls for urgent action on climate change. To build on hard-won gains, developing countries need support to address the links between growth, development and environmental sustainability.

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGLOMONREP2008/Resources/4737994-1207342962709/8944\\_Web\\_PDF.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTGLOMONREP2008/Resources/4737994-1207342962709/8944_Web_PDF.pdf)

### ***DESIGN MEETING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE INVESTMENT FUNDS TO TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON APRIL 14/15***

The World Bank Group, in conjunction with the Inter-American Development Bank, today announced that a two-day meeting will take place in Washington on April 14-15 to offer developing and donor countries an opportunity to discuss the design of new climate change financing aimed at accelerating climate sensitive investments in developing countries.

The meeting will be attended by representatives of more than a dozen developing countries, as well as those from donor nations who are potential contributors to the new funds. Representatives from the UNFCCC, GEF, UN (UN system Chief Executives Board), UNEP, UNDP, and OECD, will also be attending.



“The aim of this meeting,” said Katherine Sierra, World Bank Vice President for Sustainable Development, “is to work out details of how to provide new concessional financing to projects that will have a transformational impact in developing countries struggling with climate change. For further information, please visit <http://go.worldbank.org/58OVAGT860>

## **WORLD BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

### ***SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT OF WOOD AND PAPER-BASED PRODUCTS: Guide and resource kit. World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the World Resources Institute (WRI) 3 April, 2008***



Corporate managers will now get powerful help with today's release of a “Guide to the Guides” ( 1.8 MB) – a toolbox that helps them understand and find the best advice on how to purchase products originating from the world's forests.

Countless resources have been developed to help businesses sustainably procure forest-based products such as construction materials and paper. This proliferation is confusing many buyers.

Now a representative number of these resources have been referenced in an easy-to-use toolbox – which includes a full report detailing the top 10 questions that corporate managers should ask when purchasing forest-based products and references to resources for help, a shorter overview report, and a website with a spreadsheet tool – released by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the World Resources Institute (WRI).  
<http://www.wbcسد.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=d&id=MjkzNDU>

### ***THE CORPORATE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES REVIEW - GUIDELINES FOR IDENTIFYING BUSINESS RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM ECOSYSTEM CHANGE. Craig Hanson, Janet Ranganathan, Charles Iceland, John Finisdore. World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the Meridian Institute and the World Resources Institute (WRI) March 2008***



The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment—the first global audit of the world’s forests, wetlands, and other ecosystems—found that ecosystems have declined more rapidly and extensively over the past 50 years than at any other comparable time in human history. Left unchecked, this degradation jeopardizes not just the world’s biodiversity, but also its businesses. This is because companies depend on the services healthy ecosystems provide such as freshwater, wood, genetic resources, pollination, climate regulation, and natural hazard protection.

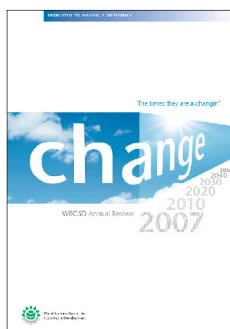
This publication provides corporate managers with a proactive approach to



making the connection between ecosystem change and their business goals. It introduces the Corporate Ecosystem Services Review—a structured methodology to help businesses develop strategies for managing risks and opportunities arising from their dependence and impact on ecosystems. It is a tool for corporate strategy development and can augment existing environmental management systems.

<http://www.wbcsd.org/includes/getTarget.asp?type=d&id=Mjg5NjU>

## **WBCSD ANNUAL REVIEW 2007 – THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’.** **World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD),** **February 2008**



One of the main tasks of the WBCSD is to provide context for companies in a chaotic world, especially in times of rapid and revolutionary transformation. In this review we describe how we are working with governments and civil society organizations to manage the coming turmoil as efficiently as possible.

Incoming WBCSD Chairman Sam DiPiazza reminds us in his message that “governments and NGOs have come to realize business is not the cause of many of society's ills, but part of the solution.” And outgoing WBCSD Chairman Travis Engen reflects that “business is unable -and in fact no segment of society is able -to meet the challenges of sustainable development alone.”

The WBCSD Annual Review 2007 ( 6.4 MB) summarizes the actions of our Energy & Climate, Development, Ecosystems and The Business Role Focus Areas and outlines their future activities. It also covers our broad range of Projects and Initiatives, each with its own connection to energy and climate and other important sustainability issues.

<http://www.wbcsd.org/DocRoot/LsS9sBAiFBctMe3sjn4x/annualreview2007.pdf>

## **WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)**

### **CLIMATE CHANGE WILL ERODE FOUNDATIONS OF HEALTH. WHO Director-General warns vulnerable populations at greatest risk of projected impacts. 7 APRIL 2008**

Scientists tell us that the evidence the Earth is warming is "unequivocal." Increases in global average air and sea temperature, ice melting and rising global sea levels all help us understand and prepare for the coming challenges. In addition to these observed changes, climate-sensitive impacts on human health are occurring today. They are attacking the pillars of public health. And they are providing a glimpse of the challenges public health will have to confront on a large scale, WHO Director-General Dr Margaret Chan warned today on the occasion of World Health Day.

"The core concern is succinctly stated: climate change endangers human health," said Dr Chan. "The warming of the planet will be gradual, but the effects of extreme weather events -- more storms, floods, droughts and heat waves -- will be abrupt and acutely felt. Both trends can affect some of the most fundamental determinants of health: air, water, food, shelter and freedom from disease."

Human beings are already exposed to the effects of climate-sensitive diseases and these diseases today kill millions. They include malnutrition, which causes over 3.5 million deaths per year, diarrhoeal diseases, which kill over 1.8 million, and malaria, which kills almost 1 million.  
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2008/pr11/en/print.html>

## **THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION (IUCN)**

### ***BUILDING BIODIVERSITY BUSINESS. Joshua Bishop, Sachin Kapila, et.al. IUCN. 27 Mar 2008***



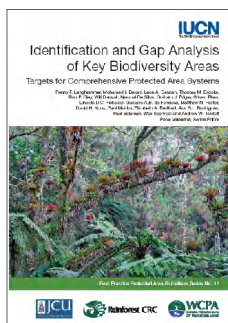
The report calls for policy reforms to increase the commercial rewards for conserving biodiversity, increased penalties for biodiversity loss and better information on the biodiversity performance of business. A key challenge facing all biodiversity businesses is the lack of accepted indicators to measure positive and negative contributions to biodiversity conservation.

As the world wakes up to the accelerating loss of biological diversity, businesses are increasingly viewing biodiversity conservation as a potential profit centre, says the report, Building Biodiversity Business.

Ecotourism is one example of how money can be made from looking after species and their habitats. Environmentally-friendly tourism is expanding at a rate of 20-30 percent annually, compared with 9 percent for tourism as a whole.

Many other businesses, historically responsible for the loss of biodiversity, are starting to lead the way by protecting biodiversity. Markets for organic agriculture and sustainably-harvested timber are growing at double-digit rates. Another major area of growth is the demand for climate mitigation services, such as the protection of forests and wetlands to absorb carbon dioxide.  
<http://www.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2008-002.pdf>

### ***IDENTIFICATION AND GAP ANALYSIS OF KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS: TARGETS FOR COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTED AREA SYSTEMS. Penny F. Langhammer, et al. IUCN. March 2008.***



This volume is directed towards technical staff in governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia and local communities who are charged with implementing intergovernmental commitments on protected areas at the national level, and with site-scale biodiversity conservation generally. It details the steps required to identify and delineate KBAs and conduct gap analysis so that new conservation actions can be prioritized. As countries have committed themselves to conducting national-level gap analyses of their protected area systems, it is hoped that KBA processes will be initiated by the government agencies responsible for their nations' protected area systems. This will often be done in partnership with local or

national conservation organizations, and/or universities, where much of the expertise to do such work resides. Practical

examples are provided throughout these guidelines, and we focus particularly on data needs for defining KBAs, delineating and mapping KBAs relative to existing protected areas, and prioritizing KBAs as part of national or regional-level gap analyses.

<http://www.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/PAG-015.pdf>

## **WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE**

### ***ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: A GUIDE FOR DECISION MAKERS. Janet Ranganathan, Karen Bennett, et.al. WRI. March 2008***



The guide develops the conceptual framework from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment to help decision makers gain a better understanding of how development goals both affect and depend on ecosystem services. All the interacting components of the framework are dissected in relation to a development goal, beginning with people and their wellbeing, then moving through the full range of supportive ecosystem services and the strength of their links to human well-being, the direct and indirect drivers of change to ecosystems that a decision maker needs to be aware of, and the spatial and temporal scales that a decision operates on. The guide emphasizes the two principles, credibility and legitimacy, that must apply to information a

decision maker uses throughout the process.

<http://www.wri.org/publication/ecosystem-services-a-guide-for-decision-makers#>

## **WORLD WILDLIFE FUND**



<http://www.worldwildlife.org/earthday2008/>

## **ARTICLES FROM U.S. JOURNALS**

### ***SOLAR AND WIND RESOURCES CAN FUEL THE FUTURE, APRIL 10, 2008 (Energy specialist Sandalow sees renewable energy as an “essential solution”) By Lea Terhune, Staff Writer. U.S. Department of State, 10 April 2008***

Washington -- David Sandalow knows energy and the environment. As a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, he writes about both. His 2007 book *Freedom from Oil* discusses ways the United States can wean itself from oil.

“I think that clean energy is one of the greatest opportunities of our time,” he told international participants in a March “Ask America” webchat.

“Wind power has tremendous potential to generate electricity,” he said, adding that it is a fast-growing power source around the world. “In many places, wind power costs no more than dirtier sources of power. People everywhere can benefit by exploring opportunities for wind power.”

Sun, wind and water are rich resources that the right technologies can turn into electricity. Organic waste, or biomass, likewise may provide fuel that replaces greenhouse gas-emitting fossil fuels such as coal and petroleum.

[http://italy.usembassy.gov/viewer/article.asp?article=/file2008\\_04/alia/a8041005.htm](http://italy.usembassy.gov/viewer/article.asp?article=/file2008_04/alia/a8041005.htm)

***GOVERNMENTS, LOCAL GROUPS PLEDGE TO CUT CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS; Renewable energy conference stimulates “green” practices and looks to future. By Lea Terhune, Staff Writer. U.S. Department of State, 07 March 2008***

Washington -- The 6,000 people who attended the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference (WIREC) have dispersed, but more than 100 nations and local entities pledged to carry the work forward. Governments, towns, colleges and businesses pledged specific actions to cut their greenhouse gas emissions by adopting renewable energy.

U.S. Department of Energy Assistant Secretary Alexander Karsner told reporters “the largest consumer of energy in the world,” the U. S. federal government, will ensure that 7.5 percent of its electric energy use comes from renewable resources by 2013.

<http://www.america.gov/st/env-english/2008/March/20080307182447mlenuhret0.1497766.html>

***RARE BREED. Gugliotta, Guy. Smithsonian, vol. 38, no. 12, March 2008, pp. 38-47***

Summary: The fastest cat on the planet is on a fast track to extinction, with its numbers diminished from about 100,000 worldwide at the turn of the last century to about 12,500 today. Gugliotta profiles Laurie Marker, the American founder of a Cheetah conservation center in Namibia, which is at the forefront of efforts to save the cheetah, which can run at speeds of 70 miles per hour with a 25 foot stride. After working with the fast cats in a wildlife park in California in the 1970s and 1980s, Marker went to Namibia to devote herself to study and preservation of the animals. Her study of cheetahs is considered the world’s definitive work, and has helped to unveil breeding and roaming behaviors that provide better insights into stabilizing and increasing their numbers. For instance, she has worked with Namibian ranchers to encourage alternatives to shooting the cheetahs in order to protect their herds from the predators. In doing so, she has helped to raise greater interest and support for preservation in a country that is home to about 3,000 of the animals, a population that is stabilizing and even increasing. Currently available online at <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/rare-breed.html>

***A CHANGING CLIMATE: THE ROAD AHEAD FOR THE UNITED STATES. Stern, Todd; Antholis, William. Washington Quarterly vol. 31, no. 1, Winter 2007-2008, pp. 175-187***

Summary: The next U.S. president must adopt an aggressive policy to address global climate change, according to these authors who are with the Center for American Progress and the Brookings Institution respectively. They recommend that the president engage in a “layered diplomacy,” with a focus on a core group of nations responsible for a majority of world emissions. The next American chief executive should also step up the nation’s engagement with the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change and China, soon to surpass the United States as the world’s greatest emitting nation. The G-8 group is the model for one multilateral forum suggested by the authors to focus on global warming. They recommend the creation of an E-8 to address critical ecological dangers involving executive level representation from Brazil, China, the European Union, India, Japan, Russia, South Africa, and the United States. The authors’ most emphatic point is that the threats of global warming are too imperative to ignore: “These daunting risks should impel us to take aggressive action to insure the world against grave harm”, they write. This article is one of a series, CLIMATE POLICY CROSSROADS, in this issue. <http://www.twq.com/08winter/index.cfm?id=287> [PUBJ;MCP]

*The opinion expressed in this publication doesn't not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Government*

## **AMERICAN STUDIES PUBLICATIONS**

The American Reference Center at the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy is point of contact for State Department American Studies publications. These can be ordered through the American Reference Center at the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava, by fax (02/5441 8862) or e-mail [arc\\_brat@state.gov](mailto:arc_brat@state.gov)

The publications are free of charge, but quantities are limited. Orders will be processed within Slovakia only. Requesters from Bratislava can arrange an appointment at 02/5922 3123 (Monday through Friday 8:00 - 16:00) to pick up the brochures.

A list of available publications (with short summary) can be found at: <http://slovakia.usembassy.gov/publications.html>

More information about ARC resources, products, and services is available at the Embassy Website at: <http://slovakia.usembassy.gov/arc.html>